

**MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.**



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE

YEAR 1937.



MARPLE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.



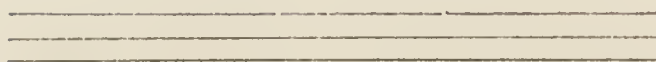
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MARPLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR, 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Marple Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Miss Bradley and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of your area for the year 1937.

This report is of interest in that it is the first report on a full year's working of the enlarged area.

Another interesting feature is the fact that for the first time the Council has a full-time Sanitary Inspector and although he only commenced his duties in April it will be seen that as compared with the figures in the last report there is an all-round increase in the number of inspections carried out and in the duties performed. The next report will no doubt demonstrate this fact even more forcibly.

The health of the year has been marred by the outbreak of Diphtheria amongst the children of the area, resulting in 35 cases with unfortunately 2 deaths. Effective steps have been taken, however, for the control of this disease.

The table below shows the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates compared with those of England and Wales as a whole. The Birth Rate, though higher than 1936, is still below the level of the country. The Death Rate, too, is higher both than last year and than the rest of the country, but the Infantile Mortality Rate keeps low.

	Marple U.D.C.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate (per 1,000)	11.8	14.9
Death Rate (per 1,000)... ..	13.6	12.4
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	36.5	58.0

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)...	7,130
Population (Census 1931) (Old Area)...	7,390
Population New Area (Registrar General's Estimate, 1937) ...	11,660
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) ...	4,061
Rateable Value ...	£81,408
Product of Penny Rate...	£301

The physical features and character of the district are of a hilly nature. The River Goyt, formerly the boundary between Cheshire and Derbyshire now flows through the centre of the area and later becomes the dividing line between your area and that of the Bredbury and Romiley U.D.C. The North-West boundary of the area is the River Etherow, which subsequently joins the Goyt. The height above sea level varies between 201 and 1,075 feet, this being the highest point of Cobden Edge.

The district is well drained, the sub-soil being clay, with occasional faults of sand and marl, and the sloping character of the district makes the drainage natural and renders it dry and healthy.

The population of the area is chiefly residential and this section of the community is engaged chiefly in business in Manchester and its neighbouring towns.

The major portion of the working-class community is engaged in the local factories. The chief of these are two large spinning and weaving mills, two large printworks and a cotton wadding mill. There is also a considerable farming element engaged on small farms and chiefly employed in the production of milk.

None of the occupations are unhealthy and have no deleterious effect on the health of the inhabitants.

The general standard of the working-class house is good and the worst of them have now been scheduled for demolition.

The area has again been fortunate in the fact that its factories have kept in good work, and although unemployment is not unknown the problem is not acute. The Council have as far as possible used local unemployed to augment their permanent staff when extra labour has been required.

The overcrowding problem has never been serious in the area. 22 cases have been found, 21 in the Survey and a fresh one during 1937. Only two of these remain to be dealt with.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

Live Births:—	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	130 ...	69 ...	61
Illegitimate	7 ...	4 ...	3
Total	137 ...	73 ...	64

Birth Rate: 11.8 per 1,000

Still Births:—	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	4 ...	0 ...	4
Illegitimate	0 ...	0 ...	0
Total	4 ...	0 ...	4

Rate per 1,000 total births: 29.2.

DEATHS.

Deaths	Total.	M.	F.
	177 ...	80 ...	97
Corrected Death Rate: 13.6 per 1,000.			

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis Nil.

(b) Other Puerperal Causes... .. Nil.

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births: Nil.

Deaths from Cancer... ..	Total.	M.	F.
	27 ...	13 ...	14

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	4 ...	2 ...	2
Illegitimate	1 ...	1 ...	0
Total	5 ...	3 ...	2

Rates:

All infants per 1,000 live births... .. 36.5

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... 30.8

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 142.8

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ... Nil.

Table No. 1.

Deaths Registered During the Calendar Year 1937 classified by cause.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.		
	Total	Males.	Females
All Causes—Certified	177	80	97
„ Uncertified ... ..	...	...	...
Diphtheria	2	2	...
Influenza	10	3	7
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	...	3
Other Tuberculosis	1	...	1
Cancer	27	13	14
Diabetes	1	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	6	2	4
Heart Disease	56	23	33
Other Circulatory Disease	17	11	6
Bronchitis	7	...	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	6	1
Appendicitis	1	1	...
Other Digestive Disease	3	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	2	2
Congenital Causes	4	2	2
Senility	2	1	1
Suicide ... ..	...	...	...
Other Violence	7	5	2
Other defined causes	18	7	11
Totals	177	80	97

Deaths Classified by Ages :

Age.	Total.	Males.	Females.
0— 1	5	3	2
1—10	4	4	0
11—20	4	2	2
21—30	4	4	0
31—40	9	3	6
41—50	7	3	4
51—60	26	13	13
61—70	43	21	22
71—80	51	20	31
81—90	24	7	17
91-100	0	0	0

Totals	177	...	80	...	97
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The Average Age at Death was :—

Males : 57.7 years.

Females : 66.5 years.

Males and Females combined : 60.9 years.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Dr. W. A. Jackson, M.D., Ch.B., was the Medical Officer of Health during the year. He is a part-time officer. The Council continued in negotiation with neighbouring authorities on the subject of the appointment of a full-time Medical Officer for combined areas and it is anticipated that an appointment will be made in 1938.

Mr. Samuel Hodgkinson is the Sanitary Inspector. He is a full-time officer and commenced duties on April 19th, 1937. He holds the following qualifications :—

(1) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

(2) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

(3) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Mr. T. Cooper, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst. M. and Cy.E., is the Water Engineer and Surveyor to the Council. He is a full-time officer.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory of the University of Manchester carries out the majority of such bacteriological examinations as are required by the Council. During the year the following examinations were made:—

Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	200	(positive 25)
Agglutination tests for Typhoid, etc.	4	(positive 0)
Milk for Tuberculosis	9	(positive 1)
Milk for bacterial count and B.Coli	9	
Faeces for Typhoid Bacilli	1	(negative)

The Laboratory of the Cheshire County Council at Chester is available for the examination of sputa for Tubercle Bacilli and during 1937, 52 samples were examined, of which 7 were positive.

Messrs. Melling & Ardern, Analytical and Consulting Chemists, of Manchester, have carried out such chemical and bacteriological examinations of the Water Supply as have been deemed necessary and the Council have made arrangements with this firm to carry out regular systematic examinations on an ample scale during 1938. It is estimated that a total of some 88 samples will be required as a minimum in order to safeguard the purity of the water supply.

The laboratory of the Chester Royal Infirmary is available for pathological investigations at the request of local practitioners and these are available at reduced fees for Insured Persons.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Stockport Police Ambulances are available at a yearly retaining fee for all street accidents. These ambulances are also used for the transport of urgent cases to hospital and home again on recovery, a fee being charged to the patient.

The ambulance attached to the Stepping Hill Hospital removes patients who are under the care of the Public Assistance Committee.

The Hyde Infectious Hospital ambulance is available for all cases of infectious disease.

These systems all work well and there is never any delay in the removal of cases.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The Local Authority provides no nursing facilities for either general or infectious nursing.

There are in the area three District Nurses, one being employed by each of the three District Nursing Associations of

Marple, Marple Bridge and High Lane. These nurses are available for both General Nursing and Maternity work, but not for infectious diseases. The three Nursing Associations are maintained entirely by voluntary contributions.

Midwives.

There are six midwives practising in the area. Three of them are the district nurses referred to above and there are also three engaged in private practice. They are supervised by the officers of the Cheshire County Council.

The supply of midwives is ample for the area.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are two private Maternity and Nursing Homes in the area. Their supervision is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

Maternal Mortality.

The arrangements for the investigation of maternal deaths and cases of puerperal fever are in the hands of the Cheshire County Council.

Legislation in Force.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the area :—

- (1) Private Street Works Act, 1892.
- (2) Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 (part of).
- (3) Public Health Amendment Act, 1907 (part of).
- (4) Bye-Laws with respect to: New Streets and Buildings; Common Lodging Houses; Slaughter Houses; Cleansing and Scavenging; Offensive Trades and Hackney Carriages.

The Bye-Laws in relation to New Buildings are in process of revision in accordance with the Ministry of Health Model issued in 1937.

Hospitals

The Local Authority retains two beds at the Hyde Borough Hospital (four miles distant) for infectious cases and until this year no difficulty has been met when additional beds were required. So widespread was the epidemic of Diphtheria in the area supplied by the Hyde Hospital that on many occasions the hospital was full to capacity and the officials there were unable to take our cases. For a time the Stockport Corporation came to our assistance, but they too became full. Fortunately, after a long widespread telephone search, the Infectious Hospital at Buxton was found to be willing to assist

and this hospital remained of invaluable assistance to us, with the result that all our cases were found hospital beds and we were not faced with the necessity of nursing such dangerous cases in their own homes.

The retention of two beds only—a proportion of one bed per 6,000 of population—is insufficient for the area and I advise that early steps should be taken to increase the number by at least four additional beds.

Two beds are also retained at Hyde for Smallpox cases.

The Local Authority has no provision for Tubercular cases but the Dispensaries at Hyde and Stockport and the Sanatoria maintained by the Cheshire County Council are available for cases occurring in the area.

The Maternity and General Hospitals of Manchester (12 miles distant) are available for the district and also the General Infirmary and the Public Assistance Committee's Hospital at Stockport (4 miles distant).

There is no Institutional provision for the unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children in the district.

The Nab Top Sanatorium of the Salford Corporation is situated in the area and near by it is the Cripples' Home of the Crippled Children's Help Society.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are no Day Nurseries, School Clinics, Tuberculosis Dispensaries or Treatment Centres for Venereal Disease in the area.

The Cheshire County Council maintain two Infant Welfare Centres in the area, one in Marple and one at Marple Bridge. These are both flourishing centres and do very valuable work for the infants. They meet weekly and one of the local doctors attends fortnightly at Marple Bridge and weekly at Marple.

Mortuary.

The mortuary accommodation during the year has continued to be the unsatisfactory outbuilding about which I expressed concern in my last report.

The Council have, however, during the year considered a scheme for the enlargement of the Council Offices and included in this scheme are plans for the reconstruction of the mortuary with the addition of a post-mortem room.

I can only express the hope that the proposed reconstruction will not be unduly delayed.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) Water

(i) *Marple.*

The supply to Marple is good and has been well maintained. The necessary chemical and bacteriological examinations to ensure its purity are undertaken by the Stockport Corporation from whom the supply is purchased.

The difficulties in maintaining supplies in higher reaches of the area to which I referred in my last Report, have been seriously considered by the Council in the past year. The Council have received sanction from the Ministry of Health to proceed with a scheme for the erection of a Water Tower at Wybersley Reservoir together with mains and connections to Stockport Corporation supply. This installation is designed to serve the Carr Brow and Ridge areas and is expected to be under construction in the early part of 1938.

The Council, whilst proceeding with the above scheme, have effected considerable improvements in the supply to these areas by means of temporary measures adopted with the co-operation of the Stockport Corporation.

I have again to refer to the storage capacity of Wybersley Reservoir, which contains but a day and a half's supply for an area with new properties continually under construction. This problem, however, has been dealt with in the Water Engineer's Report submitted to the Council in April, 1937, and to which I refer later.

Complaints are made in the district as to periodic discolouration and deposition of sediment in the water. This is due in part to the nature of the water and also probably due to the age of the mains.

In any case it is undesirable from the consumers' point of view, although I do not regard it as actually harmful or detrimental to health.

During the year new mains have been laid to supply new estates at Marple Hall Park, Rose Hill Estate, Hollins Green Estate, Peace Farm Estate, Light Alders Estate, St. Martin's Road, and Barnes Fold Road.

(ii) *Mellor.*

This supply has been well maintained during the year, but unfortunately there have again been a few complaints of foreign matter being found in the water below the Apple Tree reservoir.

Trouble probably arises from the fact that the reservoir is open to sunlight, causing algal growth, to rain depositing dirt from the atmosphere, and to wind carrying undesirable matter from the adjoining highway and from neighbouring farms and houses. In addition to these factors the reservoir is open to numerous forms of animal life, and it would appear that the solution lies in one of three ways. The Council have in hand the installation of a pressure-reducing valve on the Jordanwall main and by this means the Appletree reservoir could be dispensed with as a pressure-reducing medium either entirely or for part of the year. Alternatively the reservoir might be retained in view of the valuable storage capacity (this being equivalent to 8 days supply) by covering the surface over. Finally, the other method is to replace this reservoir either on the present site or at Jordanwallnook by a modern closed reservoir of sufficient size to supplement the present storage of $1\frac{1}{2}$ days' supply at Jordanwallnook.

(iii) *Ludworth.*

This supply has given great anxiety during the drought period of the past year. The springs failed completely and the storage was almost entirely depleted. During several weeks of continuous nightly experiments by the Water Department, it was found possible to supply practically the whole of Ludworth mains with water from the mains of Marple Village, via Marple Bridge. These measures ensured an uninterrupted supply at adequate pressure to practically all Ludworth consumers. There still remained the problem of a few premises around Lane Ends and also the desirability of getting water into the reservoirs themselves. Eventually it was found that the Stockport water could be delivered through the mains to the level of the roadway near Devil's Elbow reservoir from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily. A pump was hired and with a night shift working for 7 days a quantity of 40,700 gallons was pumped into the reservoir. Work ceased as the springs recommenced to flow.

In view of the above experience I feel that my earlier reports on this supply are warranted, in that the sources are precarious.

In addition, it is not advisable to incur such risks of failure of mains and supply in Marple Bridge area, which had to withstand considerably increased pressures during the emergency of last year.

The foregoing basic factors of my criticism of the open reservoir at Mellor apply similarly in the case of Ludworth, and the solution lies again, it would appear, either in covering the surfaces, in replacement with modern type reservoirs, or

a system of pressure-reducing valves in connection with the scheme as outlined under "Future Supply."

During the past year both of Devil's Elbow reservoirs have been emptied and cleaned out.

New Mains have been laid in Edward Street.

(iv) Analysis of Water.

A regular system of analysis of water samples is being instituted by the Water Engineer and seven samples have been analysed by Messrs. Melling & Arden Laboratories during the past year. Each of these analyses comprises Physical, Chemical and Bacteriological test results and by reference to the supplies enumerated above the general results may be expressed thus:—

Marple: Satisfactory organic purity, sound bacteriological condition, some slight possible action on metals.

Mellor: Organically satisfactory, bacteriological condition satisfactory, slight possible action on metals.

Ludworth: Satisfactory, organic purity, sound bacteriological condition, 'acidic' and more liable to solvent and corrosive action on metals than 1 and 2.

The Council have under consideration the adoption of regular and more frequent sample analysis.

The question is necessarily a large one in that there are five independent sources alone and in addition a further analytical requirement where the original supplies are redistributed through open reservoirs.

I have confined my remarks to Public Supplies in this matter, the question of private supplies being one of analysis at such times as required.

(v) Future Water Supply.

The Water Engineer submitted a report to the Council in April, 1937, setting out the present conditions and proposals, for extensions. This supported the suggestion contained in my last Report that the Council might consider the provision of a reservoir at the highest point of the area.

In brief the Engineer suggested that the main source for the whole area should be that of Stockport Corporation. The very large impounding reservoirs of the Corporation at Kinder and Goyt Valley constitute an unequalled reserve of water for Marple, and the treatment of the water produces a quality of exceedingly high standard.

Nevertheless it is not suggested that the present sources of Mellor and Ludworth should be dispensed with, but rather that they should continue to be utilised so long as they are

satisfactory. The scheme in effect brings the Stockport water into reserve only for these existing supplies and would be drawn upon in times of failure of present sources.

In addition the scheme provides the solution to two important criticisms of the present supplies. In Mellor and Ludworth the present supplies cannot command the whole of the area, in the case of Ludworth only 52 per cent. of the area can be served, the levels of other parts being above the reservoirs.

Furthermore, the question of storage is solved by supplementing the existing storages in each part of the district with a new combined storage reservoir for the whole area.

The basic principles of the proposals are to construct a reservoir at Cobden Edge at an elevation of 950 to 1,000 feet above sea level, to supply Stockport water to this reservoir and to link each of the existing reservoirs at Devil's Elbow, Jordanwallnook and Wybersley to the new reservoir.

The scheme will in my opinion merit the serious consideration of the Council as a solution to present difficulties and as a provision for ultimate requirements of the whole area, providing as it does for the development of public health services of water supply and sewerage throughout the district.

(vi) *Rainfall.*

The records of rainfall taken at the gauge at Rose Hill Highways Depot are as follows :—

Month	Inches		No. of Days Rainfall		Total Inches		Total Days		Monthly Fall Remarks
	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936	
January ..	3.15	2.78	19	22	3.15	2.78	19	22	Highest since 1932
February..	4.78	2.70	25	16	7.93	5.48	44	38	Highest since 1925
March	1.83	1.41	13	13	9.76	6.89	57	51	Highest since 1934
April	3.18	1.14	14	14	12.94	8.03	71	65	Highest since 1932
May	1.95	.18	13	4	14.89	8.21	84	69	Highest since 1934
June	1.96	2.95	11	17	16.85	11.16	95	86	Lowest since 1932
July	3.45	4.55	16	21	20.30	15.71	111	107	Lowest since 1935
August	1.59	1.89	10	11	21.89	17.60	121	118	Lowest since 1932
September.	1.18	4.79	10	16	23.07	22.39	131	134	Lowest since 1933
October ..	1.80	4.08	11	19	24.87	26.47	142	153	Lowest since 1922
November.	1.61	3.29	8	16	26.48	29.76	150	169	Lowest since 1934
December.	2.80	3.77	17	19	29.28	33.53	167	188	Lowest since 1933

29.28 is the Lowest Total for the Year since 1933.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

(i) Dooley Lane Works.

This works has been engaged to the limit of its capacity during the past year.

The final effluent is turned into the River Goyt and is tested by the Inspectors of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee. Unfortunately two samples tested have been reported as "Bad." The Council are taking a very serious view of these reports and the Surveyor is preparing a full report upon the condition of these Works. The Works have been in existence for some 30 years and it is very probable that they are inadequate in capacity for present needs. The Council have installed a flow recorder to determine the correct requirements and the Surveyor will be enabled to report when a sufficient period of gaugings has elapsed.

The present gaugings indicate a daily dry flow of around 300,000 gallons, and investigations are in hand to determine the reasons for this very high figure as compared with water consumption.

(ii) Ludworth, Mellor and Low Marple Works.

The Ludworth, Mellor and Low Marple Works have functioned satisfactorily during the year and the effluent has been found to be good.

(iii) Strines and Turf Lea Works.

The smaller works at Strines and Turf Lea have also given no cause for complaint.

(iv) Sewers.

The sewers of the area have been periodically inspected and appear to be in good order.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The River Goyt flows through the area, whilst the River Etherow forms part of the north-west boundary.

It is the duty of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee to take action as to the presence or absence of pollution of these rivers and examination of samples is undertaken at intervals.

During August a most objectionable odour came from the River Goyt at Marple Bridge and persisted for some days. The matter was reported to both the Mersey and Irwell Joint Board and to the Cheshire County Council and the river was

jointly inspected by their officials. At the inspection a faint smell of chlorine was all that was found. It is interesting to note that the inspection took place on Monday, whereas the Council discussion on the matter had been reported in the local press on the preceding Friday. During the interval there had been no heavy rainfall, so that it is reasonable to infer that some change in disposal of trade effluents must have been made by those works on the river banks above Marple.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

The disposal of excrement in the district is dealt with by three methods: water carriage, pails and middens.

The following table shows the numbers of these in the various districts.

	North, South and Central Wards.		Ludworth Ward.		Mellor Ward.		Totals.
	1936.	1937.	Estimated. 1936.	Estimated. 1937.	Estimated. 1936.	Estimated. 1937.	
Water Closets ...	2206	2306	317	329	363	375	3010
Slop Water Closets	302	301	—	—	—	—	301
Privy Middens ...	24	24	12	10	137	137	171
Pail Closets	24	24	214	214	50	49	287
Dry Ashpits	72	69	4	4	6	6	79
Cesspools	17	16	*—	*—	*—	*—	—
Ashbins	2494	2584	518	530	413	425	3539

*Not known. The Cesspools at sixteen houses in Ludworth have been abolished and the drains connected to the sewer.

The attention of the Council is again directed to the excessive number of privy-middens in the Mellor district and also to the persistence of the slop-water closet system of disposal in the original area.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

- (a) Dry house refuse is collected weekly in closed horse-drawn vehicles and deposited at convenient tips.
- (b) Refuse from earth closets and privies is collected at intervals of four to eight weeks.
- (c) The cesspools in the area are cleared as found necessary and the contents removed to tips.
- (d) Offal from all the Slaughterhouses and Wet Fish shops in the district is disposed of in the new gas-fired incinerator installed at the Rose Hill Depot. The incinerator is working satisfactorily, the offal being reduced to an innocuous residue without giving rise to offensive smells.

- (e) The improved system of controlled tipping is in force at the tips.

In the original area the work of refuse collection is carried out by the Council's own employees, but in Ludworth and Mellor it is performed by Contractors.

A more adequate supervision in the Ludworth and Mellor Wards will be possible from April 1st, 1938, as, from that date the Refuse Collection and Disposal for the whole of the Urban District will be carried out by the Council's employees. The horse-drawn vehicles will not be used after that date, as the Council has decided to purchase two "Karrier" Bantam Refuse Collecting Vehicles and a Nightsoil Container for use with either of these vehicles.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector reports the following inspections during the year 1937:—

(a) Number of Inspections made:

Inspections under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	40
Inspections under the Public Health and Housing Acts	868
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	164
Food Premises (excluding Bakehouses)	119
Shops Act, 1934	14
Factories and Workshops (including Bakehouses)... ..	85
Cowsheds and Dairies	45
Schools	10
Infectious Disease	76
Milk Samples	10
Water Samples	2
Smoke Observations	7
Visits in connection with Re-Housing from Clearance Areas	198
Visits to dwellings found overcrowded by Overcrowding Survey	50
Miscellaneous	61
	<hr/>
	1749
	<hr/>

(b) Number of Notices served (1) Statutory	29
(2) Informal	214

(c) Number of notices complied with	164
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The Sanitary defects dealt with were as follows:—

Houses:

Dampness	10
Defective pointing and brickwork	34
Defective chimney flues	14
Defective roofs	30
Defective or want of eaves gutters and fall-pipes	20
Defective windows	34
Fixed windows	9
Defective plaster	14
Defective floors	8
Insanitary sinks	20
Defective sink waste pipes	4
Defective washing coppers	6
Want of food-store	2
Dilapidations	47
Dirty condition	6
Overcrowded	1
Bug infested	10
Rat infested	1
Defective paving	28
Defective ashbins	54
Want of ashbins	23
Ashpits abolished	3
Stopped drains... ..	14
Defective drains	15
Cesspools abolished	16
Cesspools repaired	6
Animals so kept... ..	2
Accumulations	5

Closets:

Insufficient accommodation	1
Defective roof	2
Defective structure	10
Defective floors	3
Defective fittings	4
Want of water supply to cistern	4
Privies converted to water closets... ..	5
Pails converted to water closets	1
Slop Closets converted to water closets	1
Defects in Factories and Workshops... ..	52
Defects in Cowsheds and Dairies	27
Defects in Shops	6

552

(iv) Shops Act, 1934.

During the year fourteen visits of inspection were made, two Informal notices were served and complied with.

The following defects were remedied:—

Absence of suitable heating	2
Absence of suitable ventilation	1
Absence of sanitary accommodation	1
Absence of washing facilities	1
Absence of accommodation for taking of meals	1

(v) Smoke Abatement.

Seven smoke observations have been made, and in three instances dense smoke was omitted in excess of the period permitted. It was not found necessary to serve Statutory notices.

(vi) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1. No. of Dwellings found to be infested:	
(a) Council Houses	2
(b) Other houses	8
	—
	10
	—
Number of dwellings disinfested... ..	10
	—

2. For the disinfestation of the two Council Houses, Messrs. Cimex Ltd., of Manchester, were engaged; in the eight privately owned houses the owners made arrangements with other firms who undertake this type of work.

3. The dwellings and household effects of all prospective tenants of Council houses are examined by your Sanitary Inspector prior to removal and where necessary arrangements are made for the fumigation of their belongings.

4. During the year under review Messrs. Cimex Ltd., of Manchester, have carried out the work of disinfestation.

5. Periodic revisits to houses disinfested, and to tenants of Council Houses whose belongings were disinfested prior to removal have been made, and the tenants advised on methods of preventing re-infestation. No cases of re-infestation have been found during the year.

4. Schools.

There are seven elementary schools in the area. The water supply is in all cases satisfactory. Five of them are

provided with water closets, one with “Trough” closets and one with pail closets. The Schools have been visited and the sanitary conditions found satisfactory.

5. Swimming Baths.

The Authority’s Public Swimming Bath is the only bath or pool in the area.

The bath water is efficiently filtered and chlorinated by its own plant.

The following is a record of attendances at the bath for the past years:—

Month.	Gents.	Ladies.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Spec- tators.
March	310	154	564	245	1273	81
April	391	246	762	524	1923	136
May	780	509	1685	1658	4632	200
June	956	732	2103	1803	5594	189
July	1222	774	1722	1283	5001	135
August	878	563	1114	983	3538	116
September	426	387	1009	1189	3011	55
October	190	229	300	301	1020	—
Total for 1937					25992	912

The practice of issuing Season Tickets was discontinued during the past year.

6. Parks and Recreation Grounds.

The area of parks, recreation grounds and open spaces in the District is as follows:—

Memorial Park	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.
High Lane Park	10 $\frac{1}{9}$ acres.
Mellor Memorial Park	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre.
Recreation Grounds:—	
Village... ..	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.
Windlehurst	$\frac{1}{2}$ acre.
Ludworth... ..	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.
Mellor	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres.
Hawk Green	6 acres.
Total	40 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	189
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	247
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	40
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	65
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ..	25
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	164

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	153
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	8
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	21
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	19
(b) By local authority in default of owners	2

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... ..	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4—Housing Act, 1936 —Parī iv.—Overcrowding :—

(a).—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	2
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	2
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein... ..	13
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c).—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year... ..	9
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	41
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding... ..	Nil
(e).—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The erection of the 64 Council Houses on the Peace Farm Estate is nearing completion and the re-housing of the occupants of the Clearance Areas should be complete by the end of February, 1938.

Temporary Buildings.

During the year the Council have dealt with 19 of these structures under the provisions of Section 11 Housing Act, 1936. Ten have been demolished and Demolition Orders are operative in respect of the nine remaining.

The operation of Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936, will enable the Council to exercise proper control over camping sites and to forbid the use of sites for such a purpose when the sanitary arrangements are not satisfactory.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

There are 83 Cowkeepers on the Register, 46 of whom dispose of all their milk by retail. Of the remaining 37 Cowkeepers, 16 dispose of all their milk wholesale and 21 part retail and part wholesale.

There is only one Milkshop in the area. During the year 45 visits of inspection have been paid to Farms and Dairies.

The following defects were discovered and dealt with:—

1. Insufficient Light	5
2. Insufficient Ventilation	5
3. Defective paving	7
4. Dirty Condition... ..	3
5. Want of or unsuitable Dairy	7
	—
	27
	—

The collection of milk samples for examination for Tubercle Bacilli is now undertaken by the County Veterinary Officers. The Council have, however, retained similar powers under the Milk and Dairies Act.

During the year 10 samples have been submitted for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, Bacterial Count and B.Coli. The following Table summarises the Bacteriologist's Reports.

Tubercle Bacilli.	Bacterial Count.	Bacterium Coli :		
		1 c.c.	1/10th c.c.	1/100th c.c.
NOT FOUND	33,000	Present	Absent	Absent
NOT FOUND	15,300	Absent	Absent	Absent
NOT FOUND	93,000	Present	Present	Present
NOT FOUND	161,000	Present	Present	Absent
NOT FOUND	9,000	Present	Absent	Absent
NOT FOUND	4,000	Absent	Absent	Absent
NOT FOUND	30,000	Present	Present	Present
FOUND	144,500	Present	Present	Absent
NOT FOUND	15,200	Present	Absent	Absent
NOT FOUND	65,000	Present	Present	Present

The Positive sample has been dealt with by the Officers of the County Council.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The Council has issued one Supplementary Licence for the retail distribution of Pasteurised Milk.

(b) Meat Inspection.

There are eighteen butchers' shops, the travelling butcher's shop of the Compstall Co-operative Society, and ten Slaughterhouses within the Urban District.

For the purpose of Meat Inspection 94 visits to butchers' shops and 182 visits to Slaughterhouses have been made. Two of the Slaughterhouses have not been used.

There are no Butcher's Stalls or Public Slaughterhouses in the Area.

The following Table sets out the number of carcases inspected, the percentage of the number inspected found to be affected with disease and the total weight of the meat found unfit for human consumption.

	Cattle, excluding cows.			Cows.			Calves.			Sheep and Lambs.			Pigs.		
Number inspected	165	...	25	...	4	...	655	...	124						
All diseases except Tuberculosis—															
Whole carcases condemned	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned															
	21	...	4	...	Nil.	...	6	...	14						
Tuberculosis only—															
Whole carcases condemned	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned															
	10	...	3	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	42						
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis															
	6.06	...	12.0	...	Nil.	...	Nil.	...	33.8						
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis															
	12.7	...	16.0	...	Nil.	...	0.916	...	11.29						
Total Weight of food unfit															
	200lbs	...	60lbs	...	Nil.	...	12lbs	...	308lbs						

Other Foods.

There are 23 Bakehouses, 6 Wet Fish Shops and 9 Fried Fish Shops in the Area.

1. Bakehouses.

47 visits of inspection have been made, 35 defects were discovered and dealt with.

2. Wet and Fried Fish Shops.

26 visits of inspection have been made, 14 defects were discovered and dealt with.

(c) Adulteration of Food.

The County Council administer the Acts dealing with the adulteration of food and I am not aware of any action they have found it necessary to take.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Such examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Manchester and the year's findings have already been set out under their appropriate headings.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

(e) Nutrition.

No action has been taken during the year to increase the knowledge of the public on nutrition, and no investigations on the subject have been carried out.

(f) Shell-Fish.

There are no shell fish layings in the area.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	33	7	...
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	52	16	...
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	...	...	..
Total	85	23	...

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	...	...
Want of Ventilation	3	3	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors	1	1	...	...
Other nuisances	34	20	...	...
Sanitary { Insufficient	1	1	...	...
Accommodation { Unsuitable or Defective	8	8	...	...
Not separate for sexes	1	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
(Excluding Offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	52	37	...	...

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

There are 32 Factories and 33 Workshops in the area, all the buildings of which are in a satisfactory state as regards ventilation and cleanliness, whilst the sanitary arrangements

on the whole are good. There are 2 outworkers in the area. Three inspections have been made to ensure that the goods are manufactured under hygienic conditions.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of Infectious Disease has been heavy during the year.

The notifications were :—

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	27	15	0
Diphtheria	35	35	2
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	24	6	7
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Erysipelas	5	0	0
Dysentery	22	0	0
Malaria	1	0	1
Relapsing Fever	1	0	1

Infectious Diseases in Age Groups:—

AGE.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Dysentery.
Under 1 year... ..	0	0	0	1
1	0	2	2	0
2	3	0	1	6
3	0	1	0	0
4	1	1	0	5
5	10	16	3	6
10	10	9	1	3
15	1	4	0	1
20	2	2	1	0
35	0	0	4	0
45	0	0	7	0
65 and over	0	0	5	0
Totals	27	35	24	22

Scarlet Fever.

The cases of Scarlet Fever occurred chiefly in the early months of the year. They were notified in small groups of two, three and four and except in those cases which occurred in the same family it was not possible to find any connection between the cases.

They were mostly of a mild type and removal to the Isolation Hospital was only insisted upon in those cases where efficient isolation at home was not possible.

No official use of the "Dick" test was used in the control of the disease.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria became epidemic in the area in July when 15 cases were notified during the first 15 days of the month. There was an interval of about a fortnight when a further wave of 10 cases was experienced during August and September. After that isolated cases occurred until December, the last case of the year being notified on December 7th.

The majority of the cases in July occurred amongst children from the All Saints' School. This school is the largest Junior School in the district and has some 300 scholars all at that age when they are most susceptible to diphtheria. On appeal to the County Education Authority this school was closed for a period of 10 days before the commencement of the summer holidays.

All the Sunday Schools in the area were requested to close and they remained closed during the whole of July and August.

The manager of the local cinema also co-operated by discontinuing the children's matinees during July.

There was considerable difficulty in finding hospital accommodation for cases at the Hyde Isolation Hospital, as our neighbouring authorities who share beds at Hyde were also having large numbers of cases. The hospitals at Stockport and Buxton came to our assistance and were invaluable

aids. In one case only was there delay in admission to hospital, all other cases being removed on the day of notification.

As I have pointed out earlier in this report, the retention of only two beds at Hyde is now inadequate for the needs of the area.

In order to prevent a recurrence of future epidemics of diphtheria, I reported to the Council the advantages of immunisation against diphtheria and a scheme of immunisation was adopted. By this scheme the Council undertook to pay the cost of materials used for the immunisation of children, the necessary injections to be given by the child's own doctor. Circulars pointing out the benefits of the process were posted to every house in the area, posters were displayed on hoardings and films were shown at the local cinema. The scheme was launched in November and by the end of the year 324 children had been treated under the scheme.

The Council also authorised the provision of prophylactic doses of Anti-Diphtheritic Serum each of 1,000 units to be used to produce a rapid Passive Immunity in contacts of positive cases. During the period of the epidemic 24 such doses were issued and in all cases the use was apparently successful.

The Medical Officer of Health holds a stock of Anti-Diphtheritic Serum and this is available for urgent or suspected cases at all times.

Pneumonia.

These cases occurred chiefly in the early months of the year when the weather was severe and there was also an epidemic of Influenza. The disease was severe on the older inhabitants and the deaths were all in the higher age groups.

Dysentery.

The cases of dysentery all occurred in the Orthopædic Hospital of the Crippled Children's Help Society. They were all of the common institutional type, were all mild and no deaths occurred.

Disinfection.

The Sanitary Inspector takes immediate and effective steps to secure disinfection of premises and clothing immediately after removal to hospital or at the end of the isolation period in cases nursed at home.

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Council's own staff.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was found necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality During 1937.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
15... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35... ..	3	...	1	...	...	2	...	...
45... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55... ..	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
65 & Upwards...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals... ..	5	1	2	1	...	3	...	1

The number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1937 was:—

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Males	26	6
Females	22	6
Totals	48	12

This number is 5.18 per 1,000 of population as compared with a figure of 6.92 per 1,000 of population for the whole of Cheshire.

There were no non-notified Tuberculosis deaths and the efficiency of notification in the area is high.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The arrangements for the visitation of and for Sanatorium treatment for tubercular persons are in the hands of the Cheshire County Council.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. ARTHUR JACKSON,

M.D., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

“ Glengarth,”

Marple.

9/5/38.

